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Summary record of the 7th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 29 November 2004, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping (President of the General Assembly)..... (Gabon)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal (continued) (A/59/238)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to resume its consideration of a request submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal for the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an additional sub-item entitled "Rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas" (document A/59/238).
2. **Mr. O'Neill** (United Kingdom) said that, at the 6th meeting of the Committee, his delegation had asked for a deferral of discussion of the matter so that it might seek further clarification of the proposal introduced by the representative of Kyrgyzstan. Having consulted the delegation of Kyrgyzstan and other interested parties, his delegation took the view that the proposed additional sub-item should be included under item 85 (Sustainable development) rather than item 88 (Groups of countries in special situations).
3. On a more general note, he urged all delegations to submit proposals as far in advance as possible, in order to promote the goal of revitalizing the work of the General Assembly.
4. **Mr. Duclos** (France), supported by **Mr. Verbeke** (Belgium), said that he endorsed the United Kingdom representative's proposal to include the new sub-item under item 85 and his request for timeliness and predictability in the work of the General Assembly.
5. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that he supported the revitalization of the General Assembly in connection with its resolution 57/270 B on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields. The addition of new items in the agenda of the General Assembly did not contradict efforts to reform its activities. Indeed, adding a sub-item to an existing item furthered the aim of clustering issues before the

Assembly. Kazakhstan was therefore in favour of including the additional sub-item under item 85.

6. **Mr. Balarezo** (Peru) said that the proposal made by the United Kingdom representative seemed to have wide support and he too endorsed it. As Chairman of the Second Committee, he wondered how the item would be dealt with, since the Second Committee had already completed its consideration of agenda item 85, its deadline for the submission of draft resolutions had passed and it planned to conclude its work for the fifty-ninth session on 7 December 2004. That question must be addressed if the matter was to be considered at the present session.
7. **Mr. Bennouna** (Morocco) said that he held the same view as the United Kingdom and other representatives regarding inclusion of the proposed additional sub-item under agenda item 85, since that approach would be in line with the rationalization of the work of the General Assembly and would address the concerns of Kyrgyzstan and the other States involved. He noted that agenda items could be discussed in Main Committees or in plenary.
8. **Mr. Vohidov** (Uzbekistan), supported by **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan), said that he supported the request of Kyrgyzstan and other States to include an additional sub-item in the agenda of the General Assembly, and the proposal of the United Kingdom to include it under item 85.
9. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), responding to the question raised by the representative of Peru in his capacity as Chairman of the Second Committee, said that, if the General Committee approved the inclusion of the proposed sub-item under item 85 at its present meeting, the General Assembly plenary would consider the General Committee's report the following day. As agenda item 85 was allocated to the Second Committee, the President of the General Assembly would then write to the Chairman of that Committee informing him that the Assembly had also allocated the additional sub-item to it. The Second Committee would then have to decide how to proceed; it could elect to reopen discussion of the agenda item.
10. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Kyrgyzstan had asked to address the Committee under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.
11. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Jeenbaev (Kyrgyzstan) took a place at the Committee table.*

12. **Mr. Jeenbaev** (Kyrgyzstan), thanking the Committee for considering the request of five mountain Member States to include the additional sub-item which they had proposed, said that his delegation had held consultations with interested delegations following the previous meeting. He was confident that the Committee would take a positive decision, providing the basis for a further solution to the problems and needs of poor mountain countries as they proceeded on the path towards sustainable development and a better life.

13. *Mr. Jeenbaev (Kyrgyzstan) withdrew.*

14. **Mr. Attieh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation also supported the request of Kyrgyzstan and the other States, since the international community could help them to overcome the socio-economic obstacles which they faced.

15. **Mr. Balarezo** (Peru) said that the explanation provided by the Secretary indicated that the Second Committee would have to determine its own course of action, once it received a letter from the President of the General Assembly. If it decided to extend the deadline for submission of resolutions, he hoped that the delegation of Kyrgyzstan would act rapidly to submit a draft resolution, so that the Committee could complete its work as planned on 7 December 2004.

16. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item in the agenda, under heading B (Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences), item 85 (Sustainable development), and that that sub-item should be allocated to the Second Committee.*

The meeting rose at 10 a.m.